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Serial No: 10/543,187

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-32. Cancelled.

33. (New) A system for gas stunning of poultry for slaughter comprising a substantially horizontal conveyor arranged for receiving and introducing poultry for slaughter to a gas-filled stunning chamber including a downwards running conveyor, the downwards running conveyor functioning for successively conveying the poultry downwards and into the stunning chamber, and an upwards running conveyor for successively conveying the poultry upwards and out of the stunning chamber, wherein the downwards running conveyor comprises a downwards running course and a horizontal course, and one of another downwards running conveyor, or a helical conveyor which interacts with another horizontal conveyor, the downwards and horizontal running conveyors and the another horizontal conveyor comprising telescopic systems for providing adjustment of the active conveying route length of the poultry within the chamber.

34. (New) A system in accordance with claim 33 wherein the downwards running conveyor comprises the another downwards running conveyor.

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35. (New) A system in accordance with claim 33 wherein the system for gas stunning of poultry includes the helical conveyor which interacts with another horizontal conveyor.

36. (New) A system in accordance with claim 33 wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and controlling of the gas concentration in the zones.

37. (New) A system in accordance with claim 34 wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and controlling of the gas concentration in the zones.

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38. (New) A system in accordance with claim 35 wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and controlling of the gas concentration in the zones.

39. (New) A system in accordance with claim 33 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.

40. (New) A system in accordance with claim 34 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.

41. (New) A system in accordance with claim 35 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.

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42. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.

43. (New) A system in accordance with claim 37 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.

44. (New) A system in accordance with claim 38 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.